

**Approved as amended.  
January 8, 2008**

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 6, 2007

SWAC Members

Amy Schaffer, Chair	David Frank	Marcia Marks
Mark Glazer, Vice Chair	Marcia Harrington	Craig Simoneau
Leslie Alexander	Earl Harris	
Bobbie Faul-Zeitler	Lee Levine	

Absent: E. Clifton, O. Hall, and M. Guernica

County Staff

Guests

Bill Davidson, DSWS	Eileen Kao, DSWS	Peter Hartwell, Covanta
Marilu Enciso, DSWS	Maureen O'Hara, DSWS	Sharon Palmer-Royston

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. on November 6, 2007, in the Executive Office Building's Lobby Level Conference Room. Introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

**Meeting Minutes** – The proposed October 2, 2007, meeting minutes were approved as amended. (Amendment – Ms. Marks made the motion on page two for SWAC to ask the County Executive and County Council to change the current procedures on the handling of smoke detectors in the waste stream.)

**Ad Hoc Group Reports**

**Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste** – Ms. Faul-Zeitler reminded members of the County's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification-related provisions that will go into effect in September 2008. A motion was made (Faul-Zeitler) and seconded (Marks) that SWAC incorporate recommendations on C&D waste [that she distributed at the October 2 meeting] into any FY09 budget recommendations and their review of the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan in 2009. A discussion of the topic followed. VOTE: 3 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstentions. Motion was defeated. A second motion was made (Harrington) and seconded (Glazer) to have the ad hoc group meet to develop recommendations to help the Committee fully understand the issue and get it into the County's activities. VOTE: Unanimous. No member volunteered to lead the ad hoc group.

**SWAC 2008 Chair and Vice Chair** – A secret ballot was conducted to elect SWAC's 2008 chair and vice chair. Results: Chair: Mark Glazer and Vice Chair: Earl Harris

**Smoke Detectors** – At the October 2 meeting Ms. Marks brought up the suggestion of identifying smoke detectors as hazardous waste. Mr. Glazer summarized last month's discussion, and Ms. Marks explained why she believes smoke detectors in the waste stream should be handled as hazardous waste or returned to the manufacturers for

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disposal. A motion was made (Marks) and seconded (Faul-Zeitler) to have SWAC advise the County to (1) require all ionizing smoke detectors be considered hazardous waste and no longer accepted as regular trash, (2) collect ionizing smoke detectors separately and ship them back to the manufacturers for disposal, (3) change the DSWS website accordingly, and (4) send appropriate information to businesses and homeowners. Discussion ensued. Ms. O'Hara read an email from Peter Karasik, Chief of the Central Operations Section, DSWS, dated November 6, 2007:

"Our operations are in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. Smoke detectors are one of many household items that pose some very limited amount of risk. For practical enforcement reasons as well as relative cost, benefit and risk considerations, federal and state regulations do not regulate household hazardous materials nor low level radioactive materials in household items. It is probably a good idea to encourage people to send used smoke detectors back to the manufacturers, as noted in our web site; however, the Division of Solid Waste Services does not recommend passing laws banning their disposal as solid waste. Smoke alarms pose much less of a hazard than many other items in our voluntary household hazardous waste drop-off program. We will continue to monitor scientific and regulatory dialog on this issue."

A member suggested that SWAC prioritize what is important to the group as Mr. Karasik's statement mentions other wastes. After additional discussion, the question was called. VOTE: 1 in favor, 6 opposed, and 2 abstained. A member asked what she should do with her old smoke detectors, and she was advised to return them to the manufacturer.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

Strategic Planning – Ms. Enciso, with input from Mr. Davidson, reviewed DSWS' strategic plan (attached). DSWS' top three priorities: benchmarking (developing benchmarks for all key dimensions of our mission statement), Chapter 48, and what are the long-term policy issues; i.e. yard waste, disposal system capacity, composting, etc.). Highlights of the presentation included:

- The County's recycling goal is 50% by 2010. In FY07 the County recycled 43.2%.
- With limited resources, DSWS is going to pick benchmarks, both internal and external, that are most meaningful and address all four components of our mission.
- Montgomery County Code Chapter 48, Solid Waste was written in the 1940's with only minor changes made in 1994; no revisions since then. DSWS is looking at some priority features of the law; i.e. what do we need to fix that is important to our mission. A draft of the revisions will be brought to SWAC in spring 2008. There is a link to Chapter 48 on DSWS' website (under Reference).
- Mr. Davidson asked what policy questions SWAC thinks DSWS should be addressing with their policy forecasts. What kind of sensitivities would SWAC like to see the County consider? What kind of scenarios would SWAC want the County to evaluate in the 30-year review? What policy issues?

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

- DSWS periodically highlights business and multi-family recycling success stories and those not in compliance with the County's recycling regulations in their SORRT & TRRAC newsletters.
- SWAC will go back to having standing subcommittees in 2008 (Planning, Budget, and School Recycling) as well as ad hoc groups as needed.
- Status of Recruiting New SWAC Members – The County Executive's Office had to re-advertise because only two people applied. As of today we have 10 applicants and 5 vacancies to fill. The announcement closes this Friday, November 9.
- A member went to several Safeway stores recently and did not see any recycling containers. Recycling containers would be located in the employees' only section of the store as customers do not typically consume on the premises. If vending machines are available to the public, stores need recycling containers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Palmer-Royston thanked SWAC for their hard work.

### **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Attachment

### **ACRONYMS**

C&D	Construction and Demolition
CY	Calendar Year
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
FY	Fiscal Year
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TRRAC	Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums

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SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2006 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Faul-Zeitler, Bobbie	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		-2	
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	-2	
Hall, Odell	X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	-3	
Harris, Earl	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	-1	
Schaffer, Amy	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	-1	
Simoneau, Craig		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	-2	

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2007 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie									X	X	X			
Faul-Zeitler, Bobbie		X	X		X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Frank, David			X		X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark		X	X			X			X	X	X		-1	
Guernica, Mimi									X	X			-1	
Hall, Odell		X			X	X			X	X			-2	
Harrington, Marcia									X	X	X			
Harris, Earl		X	X		X	X					X		-2	
Levine, Lee		X	X			X			X		X		-2	
Marks, Marcia									X	X	X			
Schaffer, Amy		X	X			X			X		X		-2	
Simoneau, Craig		X	X		X	X			X	X	X			